Clearance of Sewer Lines by NDMC

5747. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the exact cause of underground explosions in sewer lines on 23-24 March, 1995 in Connaught Place area, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NDMC have not been clearing the sewer lines in the New Delhi area;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility have been fixed for the underground explosions in sewer lines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi had set up an Inquiry Committee to ascertain the cause of explosion in sewer lines on 23—24 March, 1995. The Committe came to the conclusion that the explosions were caused by the presence in the drain of some petroleum products and Methane gas from the sewage. However, the Committee was not in a position to ascertain either the source of the petroleum products or of the ignition. Further investigations are required regarding the presence of petroleum products and the source of ignition. The Govt. of Natrional Capital Territory of Delhi has agreed with this conclusion of the Enquiry Committee.

(c) to (e) The NDMC reported that they have been clearing the system periodically and also augmenting/replacing the old system wherever required, depending upon the availability of the funds. The Enquiry Committee identified the need for monitoring the maintenance activities in particular desilting of drains and sewers. Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi has appointed an "Operational Mission" for monitoring the following:—

(i) Desilting of drains.

(ii) Desilting of sewerage.

(iii) Desilting of storm water drains.

(iv) Tackling the problem of drainage wherever required.

(v) Wherever possible to delink the sewerage system and storm water drainage.

(vi) Installation of vent pipes at the required points in the sewerage system and storm water drainage.

Allotment of Sirmur Plot to Maharashtra

5748. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sirmur Plot at Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi was allotted to the State of Maharashtra in 1960;

(b) whether it is also a fact that possession of this land has not been handed over to the State Government of Maharashtra and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the plot is likely to be handed over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the entitlement, 1.5 acres land has since been offered to the Government of Maharashtra in lieu of Sirmur plot. This will be allotted to them after getting the acceptance from the Government of Maharashtra.